

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions of the claims pending in this application:

Listing of Claims

1-80. (Canceled).

81. (Currently amended) ~~An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleic acid A~~ recombinant nucleotide sequence consisting of:

(a)

CTGTATGTCAGCTTCCGAGACCTGGGCTGGCAGGACTGGATCATCGCGCCTG
AAGGCTACGCGCGCTACTACTGTGAGGGGGAGTGTGCCTTCCCTCTGAACTC
CTACATGAACGCCACCAACCACGCCATCGTGCAGACGCTGGTCCACTTCATC
AACCCGGAAACGGTGCCCAAGCCCTGCTGTGCGCCACGCAGCTCAATGCCA
TCTCCGTCCTCTACTTCGATGACAGCTCCAACGTCATCCTGAAGAAATACAGA
AACATGGTGGTCCGGGCCTGTGGCTGCCACTAGCTCCT (nucleotides 16-314 of
SEQ ID NO: 42), or

(b) a sequence encoding an amino acid sequence:

LYVSFRDLGWQDWIIAPEGYAAYYCEGECAFLNSYMNATNHAIVQTLV
HFINPETVPPKPCAPTQLNAISVLVFDDSSNVILKKYRNMVVRACGCH
(SEQ ID NO: 39), or a conservative amino acid variant thereof,

wherein said ~~nucleic acid sequence~~ conservative amino acid variant encodes a
protein competent to induce bone and cartilage in a mammal.

82. (Currently amended) ~~The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 81 comprising the~~
~~nucleic acid A~~ recombinant nucleotide sequence consisting of:

TGTAAGAAGCACGAGCTGTATGTCAGCTTCCGAGACCTGGGCTGGCAGGACT
GGATCATCGCGCCTGAAGGCTACGCGCGCTACTACTGTGAGGGGGAGTGTGC
CTTCCCTCTGAACTCCTACATGAACGCCACCAACCACGCCATCGTGCAGACG

CTGGTCCACTTCATCAACCCGGAAACGGTGCCCAAGCCCTGCTGTGCGCCCA
CGCAGCTCAATGCCATCTCCGTCCTCTACTTCGATGACAGCTCCAACGTCATC
CTGAAGAAATACAGAAACATGGTGGTCCGGGCCTGTGGCTGCCACTAGCTCC
T (SEQ ID NO: 42), or

a sequence encoding an amino acid sequence:

CKKHEL YVSFRDLGWQDWIIAPEGYAA YYCEGECAFLNSYMNATNHAIVQTL
VHFINPETVPKPCCAPTQLNAISVLYFDDSSNVILKKYRNMVVRACGCH (amino
acids 6-107 of SEQ ID NO: 9), or a conservative amino acid variant thereof,

wherein said conservative amino acid variant encodes a protein competent to induce bone
and cartilage in a mammal.

83-86. (Canceled)

87. (Currently amended) ~~An isolated host cell transformed with the nucleic acid molecule~~
comprising the nucleotide sequence of claim 81 or 82.
88. (Currently amended) ~~The isolated~~ host cell of claim 87, wherein said cell is a
prokaryotic or an eukaryotic cell.
89. (Currently amended) ~~The isolated~~ host cell of claim 88, wherein said prokaryotic cell is
an E.coli cell, and said eukaryotic cell is a Saccharomyces cell or a mammalian cell.
90. (Currently amended) ~~The isolated nucleic acid molecule~~ nucleotide sequence of any one
~~of claims 81[[-]] or 823,~~ wherein the ~~nucleic acid~~ nucleotide sequence is a DNA
sequence.
91. (Currently amended) ~~The isolated~~ host cell of any one of claims 87-89, wherein the
~~nucleic acid~~ nucleotide sequence is a DNA sequence.
92. (New) A nucleic acid comprising the nucleotide sequence of claim 81 or claim 82 joined
to a recombinant promoter.
93. (New) A nucleic acid comprising the nucleotide sequence of claim 81 or claim 82 joined
to a non-native sequence.